

**ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2009, 6:30 PM  
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

The School Committee met on Monday, November 23, 2009, at 6:30 PM in the High School Library. Committee members present were: Mr. Norris, Mrs. Pezzella, Mr. Mills, Mr. Mullen, and Mrs. Werkheiser. Also present were Superintendent Retchless, Assistant Superintendent Scarpelli, Mrs. Cusick, and Emily Veiga, Student Representative.

Representing the press were citizens broadcasting for WRPS/TV.

Mr. Norris introduced Emily Veiga, High School Student Representative.

Chairman Norris thanked the voters for their support at the election on the school building project.

Ms. Salem, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Mr. Wells, Technology Coordinator, Mrs. Ryan, Middle School Computer teacher, and Ms. Hoffman, High School Math teacher; were present in the audience.

On motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the minutes of the meeting of November 9, 2009 were accepted.

A request from the Rockland Lion's Club to distribute flyers to elementary and middle school students was approved on the recommendation of the Superintendent. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous.

A request from Old Colony Council Boy Scouts to distribute flyers to Grade 1 students was approved on the recommendation of the Superintendent. Motion by Mr. Mills seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

A request from the Boston University Reading Enrichment Programs to distribute flyers to elementary and middle school students and to post at the high school was approved on the recommendation of the Superintendent. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous.

A request from the Boston University Reading Enrichment Programs to distribute flyers to middle school students and to post at the high school was approved on the recommendation of the Superintendent. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous.

A request from the Holiday Stroll Committee to distribute flyers to elementary and middle school students and to post at the high school was approved on the recommendation of the Superintendent. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

A request from the Rockland Memorial Library to distribute flyers to elementary students was approved on the recommendation of the Superintendent. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

The Superintendent thanked the voters for their support of the Middle School Building Project at the election. Mr. Retchless gave the Committee an update on the flu situation and announced that there is a suspension of the requirement for students to bring a doctor's note after being absent five days. This handbook policy will be reinstated as soon as the flu season subsides. Ms. Salem, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, applied and has received two grants. The first is ACELA, a Math Grant for \$15,000 and a K-3 Math grant also for \$5,000. Rockland will receive \$25,000 from a K-12 Literacy Professional Development Grant that was submitted in conjunction with the North River Collaborative and Hanover Public Schools. Mrs. Sheehan, Professional Development Coordinator, assisted in the preparation of this grant. Mr. Retchless reviewed the MASC/MASS conference with regard to the presentation he made on the subject of "How to Win an Override." It was presented with the Superintendent from the Randolph Public Schools.

On four separate motions by Mr. Mills, seconds by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the following Financial Reports for October were accepted:

- 1) School Department
- 2) High School Student Activities
- 3) Middle School Student Activities
- 4) Cafeteria

On seventeen separate motions by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, the following Monthly Reports for September/October were accepted:

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|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) Art                           | Ms. Gibson                 |
| 2) Athletic                      | Mr. Graziano               |
| 3) Computer Technology           | Mr. Wells                  |
| 4) Day Care                      | Mrs. Veiga                 |
| 5) Deans                         | Mrs. Schipper/Mr. Damon    |
| 6) English                       | Ms. McDonough              |
| 7) Family Consumer Sci./Tech Ed. | Mr. Graziano               |
| 8) Foreign Language              | Mrs. Palmer                |
| 9) Library                       | Mrs. Linehan               |
| 10) Math                         | Mr. Casagrande             |
| 11) Music                        | Mr. Harden                 |
| 12) Radio/TV Station             | Mr. Cable-Murphy           |
| 13) Science                      | Mr. Casagrande             |
| 14) Social Studies               | Mr. Grimmett               |
| 15) Special Education (8-12)     | Mrs. McGonnigal            |
| 16) Title I                      | Title I Parent Coordinator |
| 17) Middle School                | Ms. Bohn                   |

Mr. Retchless noted that in the past year, all three elementary schools' computer labs have been updated. Mr. Wells, Technology Coordinator, has formed a Committee to look into technology for the future of the Rockland Public Schools. The Committee consists of a teacher from each building. The Committee is reviewing educating students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century through critical thinking, collaboration, communication and creativity. This will involve training teachers on a regular basis. The Committee presented a slide show outlining the technology challenges facing Rockland Public Schools and some recommended solutions. Other aspects of the Committee's work will be changing teaching from passive to active learning, more online content of classes, interactive websites, and the connection with home and school lessons. Document cameras have been purchased for each building that will change teaching methods. There was a general discussion regarding this exciting educational initiative and the Committee wished the technology staff best wishes on their task.

Mrs. Werkheiser again thanked the voters and updated the Committee on the activities of the School Building Committee. The Committee is in the process of reviewing the contracts with Daedalus and Dore & Whittier. The project is now moving from phase one to phase two. The Superintendent noted that he, Mr. Scarpelli, and Dr. Rogers will attend a seminar at the Inspector General's office on CM at Risk. The project is expected to have the new Middle School opened by August 2012.

After a general discussion regarding the Home Education policy, it was voted to rescind the vote by the Committee on September 28, 2009. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen. Mr. Mills, Mr. Mullen, Mrs. Pezzella, and Mrs. Werkheiser voted in favor. Mr. Norris abstained. On the recommendation of the Superintendent it was voted to approve the proposed request to home education a second grader and a seventh grader. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella. Mr. Mills, Mr. Mullen, Mrs. Pezzella, and Mrs. Werkheiser voted in favor. Mr. Norris voted against the motion.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to declare four storage lockers in the band room at the high school as surplus property. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to declare a miscellaneous listing of computer equipment at all schools as surplus property. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to approve a donation of three LaserJet printers from Venture Tape. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous.

The Superintendent reviewed personnel information for October and November including the appointment of Denise Brownell as Webmaster for the school website.

Mrs. Werkheiser announced the high school drama production of You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown held on December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Also reported on the successful craft day at the Esten School with custodians volunteering their time. Other announcements included: cheerleading championships, football championships, scheduled athletic banquet, Holiday Stroll, deadlines for college applications for seniors, and senior portraits.

On motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the meeting adjourned at 7:48PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Mills, Jr.

Secretary